Welfare of orphans

†1084. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Non-Governmental Organisations engaged in the welfare of orphans across the country;

(b) what is the amount of financial assistance provided to each of these organizations during the last three years; and

(c) whether some of the organizations, out of the above NGOs, have misused the funds provided to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Ministry of Women and Child Development has two schemes for welfare of orphans. These are:

(i) A Scheme for Assistance to Homes for Children (Shishu Greh) to promote in-country Adoption under which grant-in-aid is given to voluntary organizations and Government run homes for orphaned/abandoned children of 0-6 years for giving them quality child care and placement in adoption. The details of voluntary organizations and State Governments which were provided assistance under this Scheme during the last three years are available on Central Adoption Resource Agency's (CARA) website-www. adoptionindia. nic. in.

(ii) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely 'A Programme for Juvenile Justice' under which financial assistance is provided to the State Governments/UT Administrations to meet 50 per cent of their expenditure requirements for construction and maintenance of children's homes either by itself or in association with voluntary organizations, under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000. The ratio of expenditure in case of NGO run homes is 45:45:10 among Centre, States and NGO. The State Governments/UT Administrations, in turn release grants adding, its own share to concerned NGOs for running the children homes. The details of grants released under this scheme to the States/ UTs during last three years are available in the Ministry's website-www.wcd.nic.in.

(c) No such incidence has come to the notice of the Ministry so far.

Making stringent anti-dowry law

1085. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering a proposal to make the anti-dowry law harsher which seeks to protect brides against greedy husbands and in-laws, and extend the current seven year window for registration of a dowry death case to life time;

(b) if so, whether Government has examined the recommendations of the National Commission for Women and is of the view that, given the rising trend of dowry cases, there is a need for stricter provisions and longer jail terms; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, whether any final decision, in this regard, has been taken and by when a legislation in this regard is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) National Commission for Women has made some recommendations for the amendment of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 and section 304B IPC (dowry death). The main points of the recommendations are given in the enclosed statement. [Refer to the statement appended to the answer to USQ 1073 part (b)]. The recommendations are presently under examination in the Ministry of Women and Child Development. It will not be possible at this stage to indicate any definite time-frame for a final decision to be taken in the matter or any legislation to be introduced in this regard.

Legislation for prevention of molestation and violence against women

1086. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has declared that a new legislation would be formed over the growing incidents of molestation and violence against women, and the Minister has called for stringent measures to check the menace;

(b) whether the Minister has also sought comments of the States about the proposed Bill for protection of women from sexual harassment at workplaces;

(c) whether a two-day State Women and Child Development Minister's Conference was held recently;

(d) if so, the main points dicussed; and

(e) how many State Governments have agreed to have such type of legislation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No such declaration has been made. However, there is need for implementation of the laws meant for the protection and empowerment of women.

(b) An earlier draft of the bill on protection of women from sexual harassment was circulated for comments to all State Governments and UT administrations in the year 2005.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Conference was held on 28th and 29th January, 2008.

(d) The Conference deliberated upon the status and efficacy of programmes, schemes and legislations of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, specifically, ICDS, child protection, women's social & economic empowerment, the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, female foeticide and declining sex ratio and molestation and violence against women.

(e) Apropos the reply to part (b) above, no State Government expressed any opposition to a suitable law as such on the subject.